

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 24, 27, 29, 32, 35, 37 and 40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23, 25-26, 28 and 42 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended) A method of screening recombinant bacterial host cells comprising a gene library for a protein secreting host cell, the method comprising screening for activity of a ~~secretion stress inducible promoter~~ the steps of:

- (i) providing a recombinant bacterial host cell comprising a gene library and a secretion stress inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter protein or a regulator protein;
- (ii) culturing the bacterial host cell under conditions promoting expression of the gene library; and
- (iii) selecting a bacterial host cell which expresses the reporter protein or regulator protein.

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein ~~the regulator protein controls the expression of the reporter gene~~ secretion stress inducible promoter is operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a regulator protein which controls the expression of a reporter gene encoding a reporter protein.

Claim 26 (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the regulator protein is an activator or repressor of the expression of the reporter protein gene.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~27~~23, wherein the host cells belong to a strain selected from the group consisting of the species *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus agaradhaerens*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus clausii*, *Bacillus circulans*,

Bacillus coagulans, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces murinus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Lactococcus lactis*, and *Pseudomonas putida*.

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 31 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter in its normal position is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 34 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 80% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the repeated octameric motif of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the reporter protein is 2-fold over expressed in a secretion stressed cell compared to a non secretion stressed cell.

Claim 39 (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the reporter protein is selected from the group consisting of fluorescent protein, antibiotic markers, and substrate converting enzymes.

Claim 40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 42 (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the protein secreted by the host cell comprises an enzyme.

Claim 44 (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, cellulases (endoglucanases), beta-glucanases, hemicellulases, lipases, peroxidases, laccases, alfa-amylases, glucoamylases, cutinases, pectinases, reductases, oxidases, phenoloxidases, ligninases, pullulanases, pectate lyases, xyloglucanases, xylanases, pectin acetyl esterases, polygalacturonases, rhamnogalacturonases, pectin lyases, mannanases, pectin methylesterases, cello-biohydrolases, transglutaminases and phytases.